

P O E T R Y F O U R

SIR GEORGE WILLIAMS POETRY SERIES

NINTH READING

A L P U R D Y

FRIDAY, MARCH 13th

Room H - 651, Hall Building

9:00 P.M.

"Honey you're awful lucky
I ever came home you're so bloody homely
and the girls out there so beautiful so
hell it must be love I guess"

Al Purdy is a unique voice in Canadian poetry, aligned with no schools, and projecting both a proletarian vigor and a profound knowledge of Canada and its literature. He has continually sought to base his verse firmly on grass-roots Canadian experience; has worked in a mattress factory in Vancouver, lived with Eskimos in the Canadian Arctic. His poems have appeared in almost every literary magazine in Canada, and quite a number of his radio and TV plays have been reproduced by the C.B.C.

In 1960 Purdy received his first Canada Council Fellowship. In 1963 he won the President's Medal of the University of Western Ontario. In 1965 he won a second Canada Council Fellowship, which enabled him to spend a year among the Eskimos of Baffin Island, writing the lyrics that make up his most successful book, North of Summer. Also in 1965, his book The Cariboo Horses won the Governor General's award. He is a native of Ameliasburg, Ontario, but he is presently in Vancouver teaching poetry at Simon Fraser University.

His books include: The Enchanted Echo (1944), Pressed on Sand (1955), Emu, Remember! (1956), The Crafted so Longe to Lerne (1959), Poems for all the Annettes (1962), The Blur in Between (1962), The Cariboo Horses (1965), North of Summer (1967), Poems for all the Annettes (second edition) (1968), Wild Grape Wine (1968), Love in a Burning Building (1969).

LAST READING: Joel Oppenheimer, April 3rd

ADMISSION FREE